# SUPPLEMENT
TO THE MYSORE RECORDER.

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## THE PUNJAB ADMINISTRATION.

(*From the Hills.*)

The guiding principal of Sir Henry Lawrence's life, public as well as private, "*Nihil hunanũm alienum putare,*" seems still to be practised in heart and in spirit by his successor in the administration, Sir Robert Montgomery. The impression left on the mind of one reading the Punjab Report for 1861-62, is that the ruling body is in *earnest* in desiring the prosperity of all classes in the Province. A preferance may, indeed, be apparent for the European Capitalist as the leader in introducing new arts and occupations which, however, will still benefit the aboriginal people, "the Natives," the most. Although it has too long been the creed and the practice of the old Company's Civil officers to exclude and despise the European, there have always been encouragement and assistance for him in the Punjab. At first, in the Public service ; for there, before all, was outside Agency first extensively employed in responsible office. Now, the European settler it heartily welcomed and wished for the Punjab;—and the good example has actually winged its way to Bengal, where Mr. Readon gives the Colonits the right hand of fellowship, and the most easy terms of acquiring land. In fine, we shall see the lingering prejudices, which are as ridiculous as ghosts that await the day-light, hooted out of every part of the country for ever. But we must not forget that we owe the impuls to the Punjab.

It may be said, then, that we come prepossessed to the process of judging the Punjab. No doubt we are favourably inclined to the statement of official results in the Punjab for the year ending 30th April 1862. But it cannot be said that this bias is interested ; for we owe nothing to that Government. We think our inclination to approve of the policy that prevails there may be justified by comparing it with the conduct of the wisest statesmen in like circumstances. The refuge offered in England to those who fled from France when the edict of Nantes was revoked, introduced the valuable silk trade into the island ; and encouragement given to the Flemings who fled thither to escape the cruelties of the Duke of Alva, established the valuable. Woollen manufacture for which the West of England is still noted. In India, there is abundance of manual labour, but there is neither enterprise nor money available for employing the people in new occupations. To obtain leaders and teachers, we must admit Europeans, and we ought indeed to encourage, and even to entice them into the country. No beneficial change has ever taken place amongst a people, except by the importation of the talent and skill, in which Native ingenuity is dificient. And this natural gravitation goes on perpetually wherever no artficial obstacles are interposed, and, still faster, where facilities are afforded for imigration. See how the Gold fields of Australia and Columbia are crowded at once with adventures !—It is because Sir Robert Montgomory is liberlly disposed towards the men through whose means alone the social regeneration of India is possible, that we confess to any prepossession in favour of his Government. Let us now justify our opinion by a reference to facts.

The administration of Civil Justice forms properly the first Section of the Punjãb Report. The total number of suits entered is within a trifle of *one hundred thousand*, for the year, of which *all* except a number amounting to 2½ per cent, had been disposed of ! This evidences an amount of industry and despatch in the Courts, ample to satisfy a Bentham or a Brougham. The total value of the suits was nearly half a million sterling the average value of a suit being fifty Rupees The cost of each suit was 3 rupees 12 annas only.., Still, that charge, moderate as it is, came in the aggregate, to more than £37,000 sterling —an amount that may well make honest litigants reflection the folly of going to Law, and that should deter rogues from incurring the penalties which await the fraudulent debtor. Some lesson under which they will smart, seems necessary to cure the Punjabbees, who are twice and thrice more litigious than the Hindoostanies in Delhi and Hissar.—The average time occupied in each case was but 19 days. All particulars that one could feel curious about are given, except the cost of the Civil Judicial Establishment.

Appeals are very freely permitted, owing first, to the necessarily imperfect training of many of the Judges, and to the ignorance of suitors. That this privilege is essential to the proper administration of justice, is proved by the fact that *one in five* of the cases tried by Native judges was sent back, on appeal, to be tried afresh. And here our room comples us to pause for a week.


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